

10.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter outlines the final conclusions and recommendations of the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

10.1 Conclusions

The major conclusions of this study are:

- Bolinas Lagoon is an estuary of international importance, serves as important habitat to many species, and is a stopover point for migrating waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway.
- Unnatural rates of sedimentation, resulting from human activities in the watershed, have caused Bolinas Lagoon to fill in to a point where estuarine habitats, including intertidal and subtidal habitat, have decreased in quantity and declined in quality in the recent past.
- If no restorative actions are taken in the lagoon, temporary inlet closure is expected to begin as soon as 2050 (although anecdotal evidence suggests this could occur sooner), and subtidal and intertidal habitats are expected to continue to decline, both of which will significantly decrease the value of the Bolinas Lagoon ecosystem.
- The NER Plan is the North, Central (Estuarine) and South (No Seadrift) alternative plan; the LPP is the North, Central (Riparian) and South (No Seadrift) alternative plan.
- The NER Plan and the LPP both meet the Federal and non-Federal planning objectives of the Feasibility Study.
- The local sponsor is willing to share costs in the construction of the Recommended Plan.
- Although the NER and LPP have been selected as the tentatively recommended plans because they are the most comprehensive and cost effective plans, the Recommended Plan, as listed in the Final Feasibility Report, could be any viable (cost efficient) restoration plan. Its selection will be based on comments received during the public review process.

10.2 Recommendations

Ecosystem restoration by means of sediment removal in Bolinas Lagoon is economically justified at this time. The tentatively identified NER Plan is the North, Central (Estuarine) and South (No Seadrift) alternative plan, and the tentatively identified LPP is the North, Central (Riparian) and South (No Seadrift) alternative plan. The NER

Plan serves as the basis for the Federal investment with respect to sharing costs. Because the benefits associated with the LPP and the NER Plan are similar, either plan would receive its full share of Federal funding if selected as the Recommended Plan in the Final Feasibility Report.

Accordingly, I recommend that the ecosystem restoration measures recommended in this Feasibility Report be authorized subject to cost sharing as required by Public Law 99-662, the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. This recommendation is also subject to the local sponsor agreeing to comply with applicable Federal laws and policies. The project first cost of the NER Plan is \$101,553,000, of which the Federal government would contribute \$66,009,450, and the local sponsor would contribute \$35,543,550; the project first cost of the LPP is \$100,716,000, of which the Federal government would contribute \$65,465,400, and the local sponsor would contribute \$35,250,600. Based on continuing coordination with the local sponsor, results of the public review and public involvement process, and continuing refined evaluation of the ecosystem restoration alternatives, a Recommended Plan will be identified in the Final Feasibility Report.

Date

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